

House Republican Press Release

May 25, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

House Passes Workers' Comp Benefits for National Guard Soldiers



Sawyer Supports Bill for Soldiers Called out By Governor

HARTFORD - State Representative Pam Sawyer (R-Bolton) has voted for legislation that provides workers' compensation benefits for members of the Connecticut National Guard called to active duty by the Governor. The bill passed the House of Representatives today.

Under current law, state armed forces personnel, including Connecticut National Guard members, injured while on duty under state orders can file a claim in either the workers' compensation system available to all workers or a similar system in the Military Department under the authority of the adjutant general. When injured while they are on federal orders, Connecticut Guardsmen would receive federal compensation.

This bill repeals the Military Department's authority to consider claims, make or deny compensation awards, and set compensation amounts. It places state armed forces personnel under the state workers' compensation system when they are on state orders.

By law, "state armed forces personnel" is defined as the Connecticut National Guard, the state naval militia including the Marine Corps branch, and the organized militia, which includes the Governor's Foot Guards and the Governor's Horse Guards.

The bill requires that any member of the state armed forces who is under orders and is injured or contracts a disease when on duty or assembled for duty must receive benefits in accordance with the state Workers' Compensation Act. It applies to any injury or disease that causes temporary or permanent disability that prevents the person from performing his usual duties or occupation.

"This bill will provide a greater assurance to members of the Connecticut National Guard, including its organized state militia units that if they are injured in the discharge of duties ordered by the Governor, they will be covered under the state worker's compensation system," said **Representative Sawyer**, who serves on the newly created Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The bill will now head to the state Senate for action there.